

**NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING**

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

**6:30PM – via ZOOM and Lyndon Public Safety Building,
316 Main Street, Lyndonville, VT 05851**

The Board meeting was called to order @ 6:35 p.m. by Nicholas Rivers, Board Chair

Present: Nicholas Rivers (Albany, Irasburg); Bruce Marston (Barnet); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone); Betty Ritter (Cabot); Walter McNeil (Danville); Irene Dagesse (Derby); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Darrell Martin (Holland); Dustin Sanville (Irasburg); Dave Sanders (Jay); Brian White (Lunenburg); Steve Gray (Lyndon); Bobbi Brimblecombe (Marshfield); Jan Clausing (Newark); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Gina Vigneault (Norton); Gene Perkins (Ryegate); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock); Jake Thompson (Topsham); Anne Quirion (Troy); Barb Nolan (UTG); Richard Stodola (Waterford); Miriam Simonds (Westmore).

Absent: Brighton, Brownington, Charleston, Concord, Corinth, Glover, Granby, Groton, Guildhall, Kirby, Morgan, Newbury, Peacham, Stannard, Sutton, Victory, Westfield.

Staff present- Paul Tomasi, Executive Director (outgoing). Christian Thompson, Executive Director (incoming)

Visitors –Shannon Choquette, minutes clerk.

Updates to Agenda – Gift certificate (other business)

Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes of August 12, 2025, meeting as printed. Motion 2nd. Motion approved.

Hauler Exemption for SWIP – Motion to approve exemption for haulers to offer recyclables for NEKWMD SWIP.

Discussion: This exception is the same as the District had in the current SWIP and would be in effect from 2026-2030. There is an error where it refers to Act 175 but should reference Act 148. As the NEKWMD meets certain criteria, the District can submit for an exemption but must do so by Monday. Paul updated exemption with 2024 figures, which is the last year there is data for. Paul explained to the board the history of the hauler exemption to offer recyclables. This exemption is allowable because the facilities within District member-towns meet the standards for access to recycling. In a town that has a facility, 80% of their residential trash goes through the facility. This could be assumed for recycling as well. However, businesses are served by commercial haulers. This would not impact towns but could impact smaller haulers. There are several smaller haulers in the district. There are about 30 registered haulers; there are more haulers in the District than other regions because of the proximity to landfill. An exemption helps limit competition for the small haulers.

Q: Can this be geared towards residential recycling other than business recycling?

A: The data the district has is comprehensive of residential and business recycling generation. Smaller haulers do not usually serve businesses.

Q: Can it be clarified what language of the exemption the board is voting on?

A: The entire document was shared to board members to review. Any errors can be edited before final submission to ANR.

Motion 2nd. Motion approved.

Policy for Giving Non-Profits Relief for Tire Disposal – The District receives request periodically to assist non-profits with funding for tire disposal from river cleanups. The District gave Passumpsic Valley half price for their clean up event and they disposed of 50-60 tires. Does the board wish to have a policy where they honor requests but only up to a certain tire volume, such as half price up to a certain number of tires, or an overall limit on the number of tires. One concern is that by opening this opportunity, we encourage people to dump tires in places they shouldn't rather than paying for having them properly disposed. When improperly disposed, the town needs to pick them up at a cost to the town. This is a valid point that whatever the District chooses should not encourage the illegal disposal of tires. A policy developed over the next few months would be good so that there is level playing field for disposal options for non-profits. It may benefit Supervisors to discuss this with their Selectboards to see if tires are an issue in their communities and get feedback.

Q: What is it costing the District to get rid of the tires?

A: About \$12,000-\$15,000 annually. The cost is usually covered by disposal fees but this year there is a small shortage of funds, however only one non-profit was assisted. The fee is provided to all District members at District prices.

Q: Would municipalities feel that this would unbalance the budget and in effect be paid for by municipalities?

A: This would not raise the surcharge or impact the budget much because the tires will be collected at half price, which is a reason to discuss a limit of tires.

Q: Why are towns paying for tires?

A: Because they cost money to dispose and towns clean them up off the side of the roads. For Lyndon, the tires are budgeted with Green Up Day funds for Green Up Day.

The board will discuss this during the next meeting.

Set Executive Committee Budget Work Session – Typically, in late September the executive committee begins meeting to build budget. This could be done by zoom. Wednesday, September 24th at 4:30pm is the date of the first meeting.

Set Meeting Dates for SWIP Public Meetings (2) – Propose 5:30pm-6:00pm on October 7th and October 14th. People can come into District office or offer comments via zoom. October 14th is in person meeting.

Updates –

Programs – Foam densifier was shipped on Friday. District has not yet heard anything. Hopefully by next meeting the machine will be back and running and they will have provided information on what caused the issue. Paul notified insurance company of shipping, and they have not responded. Shipping was only \$450. The power did impact the baler however that turned back on when power was restored. There possibly should be surge protection for the electrical panel.

HHW season is coming to an end. Appointment schedule ends Thursday October 2nd.

Financial – District is running a slight deficit. Paul and Chris will be working this week to complete the SWIP grant reimbursement which will provide over \$77,000 hopefully before the end of October which would help the District possibly end in a surplus.

Other Business- Gift certificate. For many years, Mike Wheeler has allowed the electronics truck on his property. It would be nice to give him a gift certificate to say thank you. Proposed \$75-\$100. Paul suggests extending the offer to Rick Wheeler and supports this.

Motion to give \$100 pre-paid Visa to Mike Wheeler and Rick Wheeler. Motion 2nd. Motion approved.

First week of new Executive Director – Chris has been learning a lot of information from Paul's decades of knowledge. It has been great, and he's been getting into the work. He is enjoying the learning phase so far. He is looking forward to more interpersonal work with towns and meeting selectboards.

A question was raised as to why Lunenburg's recycling center is distinctive from the other recycling centers? Response: This was by Lunenburg's choice. If Lunenburg wants to do anything different, the District is open to discussing possibilities and options.

Motion to adjourn, 2nd, approved @ 7:36pm.

Respectfully submitted, Shannon Choquette